

WASHINGTON NEWS

The government filed in the federal court at Trenton, N. J., a suit against the Steel trust, asking for its dissolution. The Associated Press says that some of the testimony taken by the Stanley commission was used as the basis of this suit. Describing the suit, the Associated Press report says: The steel corporation's lease of the Great Northern railway's properties, which the directors of the steel company formally decided to cancel, is alleged to be illegal. This action of the directors was taken but a few hours before the filing of the bill. The government acknowledged that it was advised of the steel corporation's intention in this respect, but stated that under the conditions of lease no cancellation would be effective until January 1, 1915, and there is no limit upon the amount of ore that can be taken out in the meantime.

Sensational allegations fairly topple over each other in the government's petition, which is an equity proceeding praying for injunctions to stop the continuance of the alleged monopoly and such other relief as the court may grant. The steel corporation's acquisition of the Tennessee Coal and Iron company during the panic of 1907 is declared illegal and scathingly criticised. The petition declares that E. H. Gary and Henry C. Frick misled former President Roosevelt when they told him "but little advancement will come to the steel corporation from the purchase."

"The president," it says, "was not made fully acquainted with the state of affairs in New York prevalent to the transactions as they existed. If he had been fully advised he would have known that the desire to stop the panic was not the sole motive but there was also a desire and pur-

pose to control a company that had recently assumed a position of potential competition of great significance.

"It is certain that the corporation availed itself of the embarrassment of Moore and Schley (New York brokers who had large holdings of Tennessee stock) at a most critical period and the hammering of the Tennessee stock and the threatening of a general financial calamity to acquire the control of a competitor, took on a formidable aspect.

"The corporation thus greatly strengthened its control of the country's predominant position in the south's iron and steel trade, eliminated a competitor and unlawfully acquired a power which is a menace to the welfare of the country and should be destroyed."

The Gary dinners are referred to, although not by name, as meetings which accomplished more than written pools or agreements which were frequently broken.

"It was understood and agreed," said the bill, "that they (the steel manufacturers represented at the meetings) were bound to protect one another; that to carry out this purpose their honor was at stake, and that the obligation binding upon them was even dearer than life itself and that no one of them should act or fail to act, execute with a distinct and clear understanding that his honor was involved and this was more binding on him than any written or verbal contract. When bidden by the chief executive of the corporation they came at any time, from any distance, ready, willing and anxious to turn over to him and to their friends all that was in their minds, all that was in their hearts concerning their own business."

Attached to the bill, among many other exhibits of alleged agreements, is a statement showing the extent to which the steel corporation is represented in the directorates of other concerns. It shows George F. Baker, as a director in fifty-six others, Edmund C. Converse in twenty-eight, William E. Corey in thirty-two, J. Pierpont Morgan in fifty-one.

Of this the government's petition says:

"Under the policy of the corporation there grew up a community of interest and a power to influence action to a common purpose never exceeded in the history of the world. There came into existence a system of interlocking of directorates which embraced almost the entire commercial and financial powers of the country.

"It has been a constantly growing system since the creation of the corporation. All the business of the corporation and its control in the companies is conducted without competition among them and as a part of a general plan and combination by which they have partially destroyed competition in trade and commerce among the states and with foreign nations, and have, by their strength, acquired over competitors, whereby they are brought into harmonious action with other corporations in restricting competition and in restraining such trade and commerce.

"Since its organization, the corporation by means of its great earnings made possible through the great control over the trade in iron and steel derived from and exercised by the combinations described, has furthered its powers, influence and dominance by enlarging its old plants and constructing new ones paid for largely from its earnings. The investment of earnings has been from \$400,000,000 to \$450,000,000.

"Its net earnings shown by its annual report for nine months of the year 1901 to 1902 and 1910 included aggregated \$908,045,838.80."

The correspondent for the New

York World says: Commissioner-General of Immigration Keefe has virtually completed his annual report and will submit it to Secretary Nagel soon. He has laid special stress on Chinese immigration, labor conditions in Hawaii and the present status of the international white slave traffic.

The business of smuggling Chinese into this country has been growing steadily in spite of the efforts of inspectors. Most of the Celestials are coming over the Canadian border. Owing to the length of the border, Mr. Keefe will report, it is impossible for his agents to keep these activities within bounds.

Last year more than 8,000 Chinamen landed in Canada. A great percentage of these have entered the United States. The government has fifty-five cases in court at present, but this does not represent a fraction of the number who have entered this country.

The ease with which Chinamen can get into the United States from Canada has caused an increase of more than 100 per cent in the number of immigrants who have entered the dominion within the last five years. Canadian statistics give 22,000 Chinamen residents, although it is known that two or three times that number have entered the country in the past decade. The others have been smuggled across the American border.

Mr. Keefe will advise Secretary Nagel that the only way to handle the Chinese situation is to register all Celestials now in this country, irrespective of the manner of their entry, and to allow them all to stay here. He will suggest that congress then pass a law that every Chinaman found without registration papers be exported.

The tariff board's report on wool will be ready for congress December 1, and on cotton by January 1.

WHEN ART FAILED

"And so your young wife serves you as a model. How flattering! She must be immensely pleased."

"Well, she was at first; but when we had a spat and I painted her as the goddess of war, she went home to mother."—Fliegende Blaetter.

WHY DELAY

A small tailor in the Twin Cities has a head for advertising. In front of his store stands an oil-barrel with the head knocked in. The barrel is bright green and on it in red letters is painted: "Stand in my barrel while I press your suit for fifty cents."—Zenith.

DONE AND UNDONE

Grocer—"Did that watermelon I sold you do for the whole family?"

Customer—"Very nearly. The doctor is calling yet."—Toledo Blade.

HIS ACT

History Teacher—"What was the Sherman Act?"

Bright Pupil—"Marching through Georgia."—Pathfinder.

A PEEPER

Wife—"Our new maid has sharp ears."

Hub—"I notice that the doors are all scratched up around the key-holes."—Boston Transcript.

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